

ALL ENEMY
COMBATANTS'
VITAL FUNCTIONS
HAVE CEASED.



THIS CONCLUDES
THE CLASS FOUR
COMBAT EXAMINATION



Asche zu Asche

SEPHIROTH.

GOOD WORK.
YOU MUST TAKE
THE REST OF
THE DAY OFF.

ROGER.





TOINO.

I HEAR
YOU'RE BEING
PROMOTED TO
SENIOR STAFF
TOMORROW.



MY FORMAL
APPOINTMENT
ONLY CAME
DOWN THIS
MORNING.

YOU
CERTAINLY
HEARD
QUICKLY.



IT CAN'T
HAVE BEEN
EASY BEING IN
CHARGE OF MY
SURVEILLANCE
NEARLY 24
HOURS A DAY.

FOR A WHILE,
I ASSUMED BEING
ASSIGNED AS YOUR
GUARD WAS THE
BRASS'S IDEA OF A
POLITE OF LEAVING
ME OFF.

DON'T SELL
YOURSELF
SHORT.

I CONSIDER IT
A RETURN TO
THE FIELD.



I'LL MORE THAN
LIKELY BE PUT IN
CHARGE OF THE
RECONNAISSANCE
MISSIONS INTO
WUTAI.



LET'S JUST
SAY THAT FIELD
EXPERIENCE MAY
BE NECESSARY
IN YOUR CASE.

...WHEN DID
YOU FIGURE
IT OUT?



OF
ALL-OUT
WAR.

WE'RE
ON THE
BRINK...



I NEVER
WOULD HAVE
WISHED FOR
IT TO COME
TO THIS.

BUT...

IT'S
TRUE THAT
I CAME TO
THIS COUNTRY
BECAUSE
I COULDN'T
STAND WUTAI'S
ISOLATIONIST
POLICIES.

I DON'T
KNOW.

DO YOU
REGRET
LEAVING?



SUCH IS THE
PRICE WUTAI
HAS TO PAY
FOR CLOSING
THEIR DOORS TO
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD.

THEN IT'S
NO WONDER
THAT EVEN
THEIR PEOPLE
HAVE LOST
FAITH IN
THEM.

THAT
MIGHT BE
TRUE.

IF THEY
WANT TO KEEP
THAT NOOSE
AROUND THEIR
OWN NECKS.

THAT'S WHY IF
I SEE A CHANCE
TO HELP THAT
COUNTRY, I WANT
TO TAKE IT.

THIS MIGHT
BE JUST THE
STALLING FOR
CHANGE THEY NEED
AFTER KEEPING
THEMSELVES
CLOSED OFF FOR
SO LONG.

IT
DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE
THAT WAY,
THOUGH.

THAT'S
WHY I'M
PRAYING IT'LL
BE OVER
QUICKLY.

THAT'S
A RISKY
CHANCE TO
TAKE.

THAT'S
A HEAVY
BURDEN
TO BEAR.

I COULD
BET THE
GAME FOR
YOU.

LIVES
WILL BE LOST,
AND NOT JUST
A FEW.



WHAT DO
YOU CALL
IT... THE
"NAGAMITSU"?

I AM.

I SEE
YOU'RE STILL
USING THAT
KATANA I
LENT YOU.



IT'S THE
PERFECT TOOL
FOR SOMEONE
LIKE ME.

IT'S SIMPLE,
THAT'S WHAT I
LIKE ABOUT IT.
IT'S A WEAPON
WITH NO EXCESSES,
MADE FOR THE
EXPRESSED
PURPOSE OF
KILLING.

IT'S
LIGHTER THAN
THE STANDARD
SHINPA-ISSUE
DUSTER SWORD.
IT MAKES A
CLEANER CUT.



I LIVE IN A
CAGE. I'LL BE
GLAD TO PUT
THESE MEMORIES
BEHIND ME
SOMEDAY.

FOR THIRTY
YEARS NOW, HOLYO'S
TRIED HIS BEST TO
TEMPER ME INTO A
BLADE OF HIS OWN
DESIGN.

IT
DRIVED
ME
WILD.

EVERY DAY IS AN
ENDLESS CYCLE OF
COMBAT TRAINING
AND TACTICAL
SIMULATIONS.



I ENVY
YOU.

WHICH IS
WHY...



...YOU KNOW,
THE NAGAMITSU
ISN'T THE ONLY
KATANA IN WUTAI.

THERE'S
ANOTHER CALLED
THE "MADAMINE."
I HEAR IT'S A
MASTERPIECE.



REALLY?

IT'D BE
TO SEE THAT
SOMEDAY.

...I'M SURE
YOU WILL.



WELL
DONE







HIS
FACE.

?



THE SHAPE
OF HIS EYES...
THE NARROW
SHAPE OF HIS
FACE, AND
EVEN HIS
BUILD...

THEY
ALL SEEM
VAGUELY
FAMILIAR.
COME TO
THINK
OF IT.

IT MAY BE MY
IMAGINATION.



PERHAPS
HE WOULD
LEAN MORE
TOWARDS...

PRO-
FESSOR
?



HEH HEH...
NO, NO,
NEVERMIND.

WAS IT
SOMETHING
I SAID?

YOU MAY BE
EXCLUDED.

THAT
WILL DO
FOR YOUR
REPORT.

AND
TSENG...

BEST OF
LUCK.

YOU'LL
MAKE AN
EXCELLENT
TURN.



PREPARATIONS
ARE COMPLETE
FOR THE CLASS
FOUR COMBAT
EVALUATION.



BEGIN
EVALUATION.

end



Introduction to Transcendental Meditation